IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing device which can be connected to an information processing device, said device comprising:

~~authentication processing means for performing, in response to a request from the information processing device, an authenticating process according to authentication information from the information processing device for authenticating the request;~~

discrimination means for discriminating whether setting information for a first function of said image processing device is being operated;

display information transmission means for transmitting, from said image processing device to the information processing device, display information ~~describing screen contents for operating the information processing device by presenting information about said image processing device when a request from the information processing device is recognized based on an authentication result by said authentication processing means~~ used for displaying an operation screen for operating said image processing device, if said discrimination means discriminates that the setting information for the first function is not being operated; and

~~second authentication processing means for performing an authenticating process by reading authentication information about a card inserted into said image processing device.~~

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determination means for determining whether execution of operation command for operating on setting information for a second function of said image processing device is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of said image processing device, if said discrimination means discriminates that the setting information for the first function is not being operated,

wherein ~~when a request from an operation unit of said image processing device is recognized based on the authentication result by said second authentication processing means,~~ if said determination means determines that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the setting information for the second function of said image processing device [[is]] becomes operable by ~~said~~ the operation unit.

Claims 2-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the display information is described in an HTML document, and

[[the]] a request from the information processing device and the display information are transmitted and received according to an HTTP protocol.

Claim 8 (canceled).

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Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing method for use by an image processing device which can be connected to an information processing device, said method comprising:

~~an authentication processing step, of performing, in response to a request from the information processing device, an authenticating process according to authentication information from the information processing device for authenticating the request;~~

a discrimination step, of discriminating whether setting information for a first function of the image processing device is being operated;

a display information transmission step, of transmitting, from the image processing device to the information processing device, display information ~~describing screen contents for operating the information processing device by presenting information about the image processing device when a request from the information processing device is recognized based on an authentication result in said authentication processing step~~ used for displaying an operation screen for operating the image processing device, if it is discriminated in said discrimination step that the setting information for the first function is not being operated; and

~~a second authentication processing step, of performing an authenticating process by reading authentication information about a card inserted into the image processing device,~~

a determination step, of determining whether execution of operation command for operating on setting information for a second function of the image processing device is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of the

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image processing device, if it is discriminated in said discrimination step that the setting

information for the first function is not being operated,

wherein ~~when a request from an operation unit of the image processing~~

~~device is recognized based on the authentication result in said second authentication processing~~

~~step,~~ if it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command

for the second function is to be accepted, the setting information for the second function of the

image processing device [[is]] becomes operable by ~~said~~ the operation unit.

Claims 10-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The image processing method according to

claim 9, wherein the display information is described in an HTML document, and

the request from the information processing device and the display

information are transmitted and received according to an HTTP protocol.

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): A control program, stored in a comptuer-readable

medium, in executable form, for controlling an information processing method for use by an

image processing device which can be connected to an information processing device, said

program comprising:

~~code for an authentication processing step, of performing, in response to a~~ ~~request from the information processing device, an authenticating process according to~~ ~~authentication information from the information processing device for authenticating the request;~~

code for a discrimination step, of discriminating whether setting information for a first function of the image processing device is being operated;

code for a display information transmission step, of transmitting, from the image processing device to the information processing device, display information ~~describing~~ ~~screen contents for operating the information processing device by presenting information about~~ ~~the image processing device when a request from the information processing device is~~ ~~recognized based on an authentication result in said authentication processing step~~ used for displaying an operation screen for operating the image processing device, if it is discriminated in the discrimination step that the setting information for the first function is not being operated; and

~~code for a second authentication processing step, of performing an~~ ~~authenticating process by reading authentication information about a card inserted into the~~ ~~image processing device,~~

code for a determination step, of determining whether execution of operation command for operating on setting information for a second function of the image processing device is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of the image processing device, if it is discriminated in the discrimination step that the setting information for the first function is not being operated,

wherein ~~when a request from an operation unit of the image processing device is recognized based on the authentication result in said second authentication processing step,~~ if it is determined in the determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the setting information for the second function of the image processing device [[is]] becomes operable by the operation unit.

Claims 18-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): An image processing device which can be connected to an information processing device, said device comprising:

~~an authentication processing unit adapted to, in response to a request from the information processing device, authenticate the request in accordance with authentication information from the information processing device;~~

a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate whether setting information for a first function of said image processing device is being operated;

a display information transmission unit adapted to transmit, from said image processing device to the information processing device, display information ~~describing screen contents for operating the information processing device by presenting information about said image processing device when a request from the information processing device is recognized based on an authentication result by said authentication processing unit~~ used for displaying an operation screen for operating said image processing device, if said discrimination unit discriminates that the setting information for the first function is not being operated; and

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~~a second authentication processing unit adapted to perform an authenticating process by reading authentication information about a card inserted into the image processing device~~

a determination unit adapted to determine whether execution of operation command for operating on setting information for a second function of said image processing device is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of said image processing device, if said discrimination unit discriminates that the setting information for the first function is not being operated,

wherein, ~~when a request from an operation unit of said image processing device is recognized based on the authentication result by said second authentication processing unit,~~ if said determination unit determines that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the setting information for the second function of said image processing device [[is]] becomes operable by ~~said~~ the operation unit.

Claims 22-26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (previously presented):   The image processing device according to claim 21, wherein the display information is described in an HTML document, and

the request from the information processing device and the display information are transmitted and received according to an HTTP protocol.

Claim 28 (canceled).

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Claim 29 (new): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein if a function to be executed by an operation command received from the information processing device does not conflict with a function that is being executed by an operation command, said determination means determines that execution of the operation command from the information processing device is to be accepted.

Claim 30 (new): An image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

identification information transmission means for transmitting predetermined identification information from said image processing device to the information processing device, if said determination means determines that execution of an operation command included in a request received from the information processing device is to be accepted;

input means for inputting authentication information; and

second discrimination means for discriminating whether the identification information transmitted by said identification information transmission means is included in the request,

wherein said display information transmission means transmits the display information without performing an authenticating process according to the authentication information input by said input means, if said second discrimination means discriminates that the transmitted identification information is included in the request.

Claim 31 (new): An image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising authentication processing means capable of performing an authenticating process according to authentication information entered via the operation unit or a card reader provided in said image processing device, and according to authentication information received from the information processing device identical to that authentication information.

Claim 32 (new): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the operation on the setting information includes at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administrator password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 33 (new): An image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said image processing device comprising:

means for performing at least a first function and a second function;

determination means for, if the first function of said image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command received from the information processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of said image processing device,

wherein if said determination means determines that the execution of the

operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the second function of said image

processing device becomes operable by the operation unit. --

Claim 34 (new): An image processing device according to claim 33, wherein the

operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing

counter information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value,

an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an

administraot password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and

setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 35 (new): An image processing device for communication with an

information processing device, said image processing device comprising:

determination means for, if a first function of said image processing device

is not being executed according to an operation command entered via an operation unit of said

image processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for a second

function is to be accepted, the operation command being received from the information

processing device; and

control means for, if said determination means determines that the

execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, enabling the

execution of the operation command for the second function received from the information

processing apparatus.

Claim 36 (new): An image processing device according to claim 35, wherein the operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administraot password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 37 (new): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein if a function to be executed by an operation command received from the information processing device does not conflict with a function that is being executed by an operation command, said determination step includes determining that execution of the operation command from the information processing device is to be accepted.

Claim 38 (new): An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising:

an identification information transmission step, of transmitting predetermined identification information from the image processing device to the information processing device, if it is determined in said determination step that execution of an operation command included in a request received from the information processing device is to be accepted;

an input step, of inputting authentication information; and

a second discrimination step, of discriminating whether the identification

information transmitted in said identification information transmission step is included in the

request,

wherein said display information transmission step includes transmitting

the display information without performing an authenticating process according to the

authentication information input in said input step, if it is discriminated in said second

discrimination step that the transmitted identification information is included in the request.

Claim 39 (new): An image processing method according to claim 9, further

comprising an authentication processing step, of performing an authenticating process according

to authentication information entered via the operation unit or a card reader provided in the

image processing device, and according to authentication information received from the

information processing device identical to that authentication information.

Claim 40 (new): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the

operation on the setting information includes at least one of an operation of clearing counter

information of the image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an

operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an

administraot password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and

setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 41 (new): An image processing method for use in an image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said method comprising:

a determination step of, if a first function of the image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command received from the information processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for a second function is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of the image processing device,

wherein if it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the second function of the image processing device becomes operable by the operation unit; and

a performance step, of performing the second function when it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted.

Claim 42 (new): An image processing method according to claim 41, wherein the operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of the image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administraot password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 43 (new): An image processing method for use in an image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said method comprising:

a determination step of, if a first function of said image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command entered via an operation unit of the image processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for a second function is to be accepted, the operation command being received from the information processing device; and

a control step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, enabling the execution of the operation command for the second function received from the information processing apparatus.

Claim 44 (new): An image processing method according to claim 43, wherein the operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of the image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administrator password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 45 (new): An image processing program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for performing an image processing method for use in an image

processing device for communication with an information processing device, said method comprising:

a determination step of, if a first function of the image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command received from the information processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for a second function is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of the image processing device,

wherein if it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the second function of the image processing device becomes operable by the operation unit; and

a performance step, of performing the second function when it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted.

Claim 46 (new): An image processing program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for performing an image processing method for use in an image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said method comprising:

a determination step of, if a first function of said image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command entered via an operation unit of the image processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for a second

function is to be accepted, the operation command being received from the information processing device; and

a control step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, enabling the execution of the operation command for the second function received from the information processing apparatus.

Claim 47 (new): An image processing device according to claim 21, wherein if a function to be executed by an operation command received from the information processing device does not conflict with a function that is being executed by an operation command, said determination unit determines that execution of the operation command from the information processing device is to be accepted.

Claim 48 (new): An image processing device according to claim 21, further comprising:

an identification information transmission unit adapted to transmit predetermined identification information from said image processing device to the information processing device, if said determination unit determines that execution of an operation command included in a request received from the information processing device is to be accepted;

an input unit adapted to input authentication information; and

a second discrimination unit adapted to discriminate whether the

identification information transmitted by said identification information transmission unit is

included in the request,

wherein said display information transmission unit transmits the display

information without performing an authenticating process according to the authentication

information input by said input unit, if said second discrimination unit discriminates that the

transmitted identification information is included in the request.

Claim 49 (new):   An image processing device according to claim 21, further

comprising an authentication processing unit capable of performing an authenticating process

according to authentication information entered via the operation unit or a card reader provided

in said image processing device, and according to authentication information received from the

information processing device identical to that authentication information.

Claim 50 (new):   An image processing device according to claim 21, wherein the

operation on the setting information includes at least one of an operation of clearing counter

information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an

operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an

administrator password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information

and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 51 (new): An image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said image processing device comprising:

a function performance unit, adapted to perform at least a first function and a second function;

a determination unit adapted to, if the first function of said image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command received from the information processing device, determining whether execution of an operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of said image processing device,

wherein if said determination unit determines that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, the second function of said image processing device becomes operable by the operation unit.

Claim 52 (new): An image processing device according to claim 51, wherein the operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administrator password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.

Claim 53 (new): An image processing device for communication with an information processing device, said image processing device comprising:

a determination unit adapted to, if a first function of said image processing device is not being executed according to an operation command entered via an operation unit of said image processing device, determine whether execution of an operation command for a second function is to be accepted, the operation command being received from the information processing device; and

a control unit adapted to, if said determination unit determines that the execution of the operation command for the second function is to be accepted, enable the execution of the operation command for the second function received from the information processing apparatus.

Claim 54 (new): An image processing device according to claim 53, wherein the operation command comprises a command requesting at least one of an operation of clearing counter information of said image processing device, an operation of updating a counter value, an operation of changing an administrator password for each of plural divisions for which an administrator password already has been set, an operation of adding identification information and setting a password for a new division, and an operation of setting a maximum print limit.